



Rep. Bob Sump

Report to the 7th District

2001 Legislative Session

Dear Friends,

The 2001 Legislature has begun and again we are facing a tie of 49 Republicans and 49 Democrats. As it has been the past two years, this session will be an interesting one. All I can do is continue to work as hard as I can to provide the best representation for the 7th District.

This year, the Legislature is presented with the task of writing a two-year state budget. Gov. Gary Locke has already proposed his version – a general fund spending package of \$22.7 billion, including \$425 million more than the state is expected to receive in revenue over the next two years. He would also shift \$170 million from the state's emergency reserve fund to pay for highway maintenance and preservation.

Now it's the Legislature's turn. It's no secret the state budget will be impacted by voter-approved Initiatives 732, granting the COLA to teachers, and 728, establishing the school improvement fund to reduce class size. Locke has proposed amending I-601 to raise the limit for voter-mandated expenditures.

I adamantly oppose this tactic, as I-601 is the only safety net between you and higher government spending. The people who voted for the November initiatives weren't authorizing the Governor to exceed the I-601 limit and he can't just assume they wanted him to.

In December, I was appointed co-chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. This will help me represent our area more effectively, as the committee hears testimony on all House legislation relating to fish, wildlife, hunting, forest practices, mining, and recreation.

Please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns by contacting my Olympia office by mail, phone, e-mail, or through the toll-free Legislative Hotline (1-800-562-6000). I look forward to hearing from my friends and neighbors back home.

Also, I have provided the contact information for Gov. Locke and I encourage you to call him and tell him to protect our pocketbooks by leaving the I-601 cap alone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Bob Sump".

Bob Sump
State Representative – 7th District

Committees:

Natural Resources - co-chair
Transportation
Agriculture & Ecology

Olympia office:

405 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Telephone:

360-786-7908, or
1-800-562-6000
(Legislative Hotline)

E-mail:

sump_bo@leg.wa.gov

Legislative info on the Internet:

www.leg.wa.gov

State government on the Internet:

www.access.wa.gov



YOUR TAX DOLLARS IN 2001

The Budget

The governor has failed to respond to the warning signs of an impending budget crisis and is setting the state up for a fiscal emergency. It's a situation similar to the fallout from the budget he wrote as a legislator in 1991, a spending plan which spent \$695 million more than expected revenue, resulted in an enormous deficit and caused the largest tax increase in state history.

The 2001-03 budget is now in the hands of the Legislature and I have confidence the job can be done. It will require the Legislature to examine state programs closely and make some tough decisions. But, we must provide reasonable assurance to the citizens of the state that it is a budget plan that works not just for this year, but for next year, and for the biennium after that. And, most importantly, the budget must respect Initiative 601.

Federal Forest Revenue

Many of our state's timber-dependent communities have faced hardship over the last 10 years as the federal government has changed its logging policies in national forests. The decrease in logging caused higher unemployment and reduced the tax base.

To remedy this, Congress provided additional funding for the benefit of public schools in timber-depressed areas. The funds are currently distributed by the OSPI to eligible school districts.

As the law is currently written, OSPI subtracts the forest dollars from each student's basic education allotment, which means the school districts aren't actually receiving anything extra. All the law does now is give the extra money to OSPI.

I will be presenting legislation to make sure each school district in timber-distressed areas of our state are given the dollars owed to them from federal forest revenue. To make sure the legislation continues its path through our state Legislature, I will attempt to route the bill through the Natural Resources Committee, which I co-chair.

Fairs & Youth Shows

Over the summer, I was a member of the Fairs Funding Task Force. This was a committee created by the Legislature to find a sustainable funding source for our local fairs and other youth exhibits.

Prior to 1998, fairs and youth shows were funded through the pari-mutuel horse racing tax. Revenue from this funding source had been declining, and it was eliminated when Longacres racetrack near Seattle closed. In 1998, a one-time, \$6 million budget was established to continue fair funding, but it will be depleted at the end of the 2001 fiscal year.

The 14-member bipartisan task force met three times. We were charged with developing recommendations on the amount and source of funding needed to support fairs and youth shows, and any legislative proposals needed to implement the task force recommendations.

The task force recommended the state fund fairs with \$3 million in the first year, and increase the funding each year by a fiscal growth factor. However, in his budget, Gov. Gary Locke offered only \$2 million for fair funding.

Obviously, our governor doesn't realize how important fairs and other agricultural shows are to children and teenagers that live in rural communities.

I do and have proposed legislation that will direct the state treasurer to deposit \$3 million into the fair fund on July 1. The bill also states the treasurer would transfer an equal amount increased by the fiscal growth factor on July 1, 2002 and each July 1 thereafter.

Report Cougar & Bear Sightings

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has established a toll-free hotline for citizens to report cougar or bear activity they believe could escalate into a public safety concern. **The new hotline is for dangerous wildlife reports only.**

I encourage all residents to report wildlife sightings in questionable areas by calling 1-888-879-6069.

Fish and Wildlife enforcement staff will answer calls from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those who call after hours or on the weekend will be directed to call their local WSP office.

2001 Legislature



Some facts on Gov. Gary Locke's Proposed Budget:

- **Spends \$22.726 billion.**
- **Makes \$342 million in spending cuts.**
- **Adds \$1.2 billion in new spending.**
- **Spends \$425 million more than estimated revenue for the 2001-03 biennium.**
- **Transfers \$170 million from the emergency reserve fund to pay for transportation.**
- **Proposes a \$9.6 billion transportation project list with NO REVENUE SOURCE IDENTIFIED TO FUND ANY OF THE NEW PROJECTS.**
- **Leaves only \$157 million in unrestricted reserves and only \$433 million in the emergency reserve fund.**

Energy

Gov. Gary Locke has unveiled several energy proposals aimed at encouraging conservation and diversifying Washington's energy system. Unfortunately, the package fails to provide a comprehensive long-term solution to the region's power shortage.

Tax credits and conservation appeals represent a step in the right direction, but Locke comes up far short of what is truly needed. He is offering up some important ideas that I support, but his proposals fail to address the key issue, which is providing sufficient energy supplies to meet our future needs.

The state hasn't made a major commitment to new power generation since the 1970s. We must increase our generation capacity or this energy crisis will begin weighing on our economy and keep energy costs high for quite some time.

House Republicans have proposed legislation aimed at addressing the issue of energy supply. Our plan would streamline regulations, giving the governor authority to expedite the siting of new generation facilities.

We have facilities in this state that are ready to be built - they're just waiting for permits from state agencies. The governor must streamline the bureaucracy so these facilities can begin producing power.

Changes to our state's Lemon Law

This idea also came from one of you, my neighbors. There are a series of laws in our state that address car purchases, or more specifically, protect state residents from defective motor vehicles, or "lemons." Under the Lemon Law, if a citizen has attempted to contact the car dealer or manufacturer and has not been satisfied, he or she has the right to go before a state arbitration board. If awarded a replacement vehicle, the owner is still required to pay an offset-use fee, determined by the number of miles the car owner has driven. If approved, my legislation would create a new method for calculating the offset fee. It would require the owner to pay only for those miles used up to the time the defect was first reported. This change seems fair and I hope other legislators agree.



(L-R) Peter Kobylarz, 16, of Newport and 14-year-olds Alex and Abigail Sari of Chattaroy were pages for Rep. Bob Sump during the first week of the 2001 Legislature.

If you are concerned about any of these issues, please contact the following state offices and agencies. You can also contact my office for more information.

Gov. Gary Locke

Office of the Governor

Legislative Building

PO Box 40002

Olympia, Wash. 98504-0002

Phone: (360) 902-4111

Fax: (360) 902-4110

Website: www.governor.wa.gov (an electronic comment form is accessible through the Contact the Governor link)

Office of the Superintendent of Public

Instruction (school funding)

Dr. Terry Bergeson, Director

Old Capitol Building

PO Box 47200

Olympia, Wash. 98504-7200

Phone: (360) 753-6738

Website: www.k12.wa.us

**Department of Fish and Wildlife
(hunting questions)**

Dr. Jeffrey P. Koenings, Director

600 Capitol Way North

Olympia, Wash. 98501-1091

Phone: (360) 902-2234

Email: director@dfw.wa.gov

Website: www.wa.gov/wdfw

Attorney General's Office:

(for more information about the Lemon Law and to obtain "Request for Arbitration" forms)

Christine Gregoire, Attorney General

Lemon Law Administration

Attorney General's Office

900 4th Ave. Suite 2000

Seattle, Wash. 98164-1012

Phone: 1-800-541-8898

Fax: (206) 464-6451

Email: lemon@atg.wa.gov

Website: www.wa.gov/ago/consumer/lemon